

# CRATERS of the MOON

## National Monument

### Wildlife Checklist

At first glance, Craters of the Moon seems a lifeless place. The young lava flows and cinder cones are indeed inhospitable. During summer as little as one inch of rain may fall. This moisture drains quickly into the porous rock and out of reach of animals. Air temperatures soar into the 90s and the lava surface may reach 150° F. Drying winds of over 20 miles per hour are common.

Despite the harsh conditions, many creatures eke out a living here. Animals escape the summer heat in different ways. Most, like the mountain lion, venture forth in search of food only at night. Others, like the pika, are active at dusk and dawn. Those that are out during the day often seek shelter in the hottest hours.

Marmots take more extreme measures to escape heat. They enter a state of suspended animation called estivation, during which their metabolism and body temperature drop. They remain inert until cooler, moister conditions return. Since there are no streams and few water holes at Craters of the Moon, animals must get the moisture they need directly from their food. Mule deer munch bitterbrush leaves. Violet-green swallows snatch insects from the air. Rattlesnakes inject their venom and swallow squirrels whole. Each of these foods contains water essential to life. The following list should assist you in identifying the animals you see during your visit. Even if you do not see animals, be alert to evidence of their presence: tracks, nests, feathers, bones, calls, and smells.

All animals have been classified as common or uncommon.

**Category I:** Quite common at some time during the year. May include resident, migrant, or breeding animals.

**Category II:** Has been observed within the monument only infrequently. Sightings of these animals should be reported at the visitor center.

### Reptiles and Amphibians

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gopher snake - I                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sagebrush lizard - II     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber boa - I                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Horned Lizard - II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western rattlesnake - II          | <input type="checkbox"/> Short-horned lizard - II  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western garter snake - II         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boreal chorus frog - II   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western yellow-bellied racer - II | <input type="checkbox"/> Western skink - I         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long nosed Leopard Lizard - II    | <input type="checkbox"/> Western toad - II         |

### Mammals

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dusky shrew - II                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Western harvest mouse - II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vagrant shrew - II                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Deer mouse - I             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merriam’s shrew - II               | <input type="checkbox"/> Bushy-tailed woodrat - I   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little brown myotis - I            | <input type="checkbox"/> Montane vole - I           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-eared myotis – II             | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-tailed vole - II      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long-legged myotis - II            | <input type="checkbox"/> Western jumping mouse - II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small-footed myotis - II           | <input type="checkbox"/> Muskrat - II               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fringed myotis - II                | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver - II                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California myotis - II             | <input type="checkbox"/> Porcupine - II             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big brown bat - II                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote - I                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoary bat - II                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Red fox - I                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Townsend's big-eared bat - II      | <input type="checkbox"/> Kit fox - II               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pika - I                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Black bear - II            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy rabbit - I                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon - II               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain cottontail - II           | <input type="checkbox"/> Long-taied weasel - I      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoe hare - II                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Badger - I                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed jackrabbit - I        | <input type="checkbox"/> Striped skunk - II         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black-tailed jackrabbit - II       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain lion - II         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Least chipmunk - II                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobcat - II                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-pine chipmunk - I           | <input type="checkbox"/> Elk - II                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow-bellied marmot - I          | <input type="checkbox"/> Mule deer - I              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbian ground squirrel - II     | <input type="checkbox"/> White-tailed deer - II     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paiute Ground Squirrel - II        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn - I              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golden-mantled ground squirrel - I | <input type="checkbox"/> Moose - II                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Red squirrel - I                   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern pocket gopher - II        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great basin pocket mouse - I       |   |